

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

08/935,365

Examiner

Joseph W. Drodge

Applicant(s)

ROBERTS ET AL.

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/24/2003.
 2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6, 7, 18, 19 and 28, renumbered claims 1-5.
 3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 September 1997 are accepted by the Examiner.
 4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH or DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ 4<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>0104</u> 7<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9<input type="checkbox"/> Other |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jim Merek on January 9, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In line 1 of each of claims 6, 7 and 28 "An" has been replaced with --A filter system comprising a filter media and--.

In line 2 of each of claims 6, 7 and 28 "a filter" has been replaced with --the filter--.

In line 11 of each of claims 6 and 7 "a filter" has been replaced with --the filter--.

In claim 18, line 5 "laterals" has been replaced with --lateral--.

In claim 28, in line 2 --adapted for distributing washing fluid and-- has been inserted after "block" and in line 5 --which extends substantially the length of the filter media-- has been inserted after "feet".

In the Specification, on page 14, line 7 "58" has been replaced with --56--.

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Each of independent claims 6, 7 and 28 now distinguish in view of respective recitations "A filter system comprising a filter media and an underdrain block...wherein the underdrain block is jointless...extends substantially the length of the filter media. The prior art of record, although suggesting an intermediate product of length of underdrain block section meeting the respective length limitations, before being cut into individual blocks, however does not suggest such length of underdrain block present together with the filter media in a filter system and with underdrain block extending the length of the filter media. The added limitation to the claims concerning filter block extending the length of the filter media in a filter system is supported by page 10, line 33-page 11, line 4 and page 15, lines 6-12, etc. of the instant Specification. DenAdel patent 5,678,381 is made of record as teaching an extruded filter block of length of up to 30 or 40 feet which is jointless and has cut-out portions defining walls of chambers within (see especially column 7, lines 30-34, column 8, lines 5-7 and column 8, lines 40-46).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph W. Drodge whose telephone number is 571-272-1140. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

JWD
January 12, 2004


JOSEPH DRODGE
PRIMARY EXAMINER